

Appendix I. AIR QUALITY

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In accordance with the Clean Air Act as Amended (1990), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has developed National Ambient Air Quality Standards that are used to classify areas as to whether they are in attainment or not of the air quality standards. Areas that are classified as non-attainment areas, such as the Coachella Valley, are required to prepare and implement a State Implementation Plan that identifies and quantifies sources of emissions and provides a strategy to reduce emissions. In the Coachella Valley, there are a variety of natural and man-made fugitive dust sources that generate PM10 emissions.

In 2002, a State Implementation Plan for the Coachella Valley has been prepared which identifies sources of PM10, including revised construction-related emissions data from year 2000, and control measures to reduce emissions. There also are a set of rules (400 series) designed to limit area and point source particulate emissions and fugitive dust in the Coachella Valley. Under the Clean Air Act conformity rules (CAA 176(c) and 40 CFR part 51 subpart W), activities on BLM-managed lands in a non-attainment area must conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan. The BLM proposes to implement the following air quality management strategy to do its part in facilitating compliance with the 2002 Coachella Valley PM10 State Implementation Plan.

A. Reduce the unpaved route network.

The BLM strategy includes a reduction in the extent of the unpaved routes of travel network. This will be accomplished, in part, through the closure of routes that are redundant with other routes in a given area. Existing routes which are in conflict with the conservation goals and strategies of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) will also be closed or subject to seasonal closure.

B. Direct off-highway vehicle use away from sensitive receptors.

This management strategy consists of two related parts. One is to continue providing opportunities for off-highway vehicle use downwind of sensitive receptors in the Coachella Valley, such as in the Drop 31 area (located in the south east end of the Coachella Valley). Current off-highway vehicle use occurs on existing routes within the Coachella Valley. The BLM proposes to collaborate with the appropriate County and State agencies to establish an off-highway vehicle recreation area ("open area") east of Dillon Road and north of Interstate-10.

The second part of this management strategy addresses unauthorized off-highway vehicle use in closed and "limited use" areas, notably those upwind of sensitive receptors. BLM would post signs and enforce vehicle restrictions. BLM would also seek to develop a volunteer patrol program to provide more on-the ground presence, and to report off-highway vehicle intrusions in restricted areas to BLM law enforcement rangers.

C. Install Sand Fencing.

The BLM would install sand fencing where fencing can assist in reducing PM10 emissions upwind of sensitive receptors and maintain habitat for sand dependent species.

D. Authorized uses comply with State Implementation Plan.

All authorized uses with the potential to generate fugitive dust and PM10 shall be conditioned through the application of terms and conditions developed based on mitigation, management and control measures set forth in the State Implementation Program for PM10 in effect at the time of approval. Proposed projects with the potential to exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards shall include in the environmental analysis, a dust control plan prepared in coordination with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

FINALCONFORMITY DETERMINATION

The BLM's proposed Coachella Valley CDCA Plan Amendment and alternatives have been analyzed under Section 176 of the Clean Air Act, as required by 40 CFR 93.158. The Proposed Plan incorporates an air quality management strategy which applies measures to reduce PM10 emissions from the public lands upwind of sensitive receptors, and contributes to the goals set forth in the 2002 Coachella Valley PM10 State Implementation Plan. The proposed CDCA Plan Amendment has been determined to be in conformance with the applicable State Implementation Plans for the purpose of attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.